AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

i) one or more data processors;

ii) persistent storage memory operatively connectable to said one or more data processors, said persistent storage memory storing a plurality of media file metadata items, one or more of said media file metadata items containing reference(s) to one or more other media file metadata items, where the one or more of said media file metadata items containing the reference(s) is about a media file which encodes content that has been judged by an editor to be semantically-related to the content encoded by the media file(s) associated with the media file metadata item(s) to which the reference(s) refer;

~~ii)~~iii) volatile memory, operatively connectable to said one or more data processors, for storing one or more of said media file metadata items;

~~iii)~~iv) database management system software executable by said one or more data processors to respond to a query by passing media file metadata items meeting one or more criteria specified in said query from said persistent storage memory to said volatile memory;

~~iv)~~v) querying code executable by said one or more data processors to pass a query to said database management system software;

vi) pre-fetching code executable by said one or more data processors to:

a) analyse response media file metadata items provided in response to said query to find said reference(s) to one or more related media file metadata items; and

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b) use said reference(s) to automatically generate another query for said related media file metadata items.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The computer system according to claim 1 comprising a client computer and a server computer, each having at least one of said processors, said server computer having control over said persistent memory and said client computer having control over said volatile memory.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer system according to claim 3 wherein said media file metadata items are transferred in the form of pages of memory.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer system according to claim 3 in which said server computer resolves said query and sends the selected media file metadata items to said client computer.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer system according to claim 3 in which said server computer sends said media file metadata items to said client computer and said client computer resolves said query.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer system according to claim 1 wherein said media file metadata items are software objects.

8.   (Previously Presented) A method of operating a computer system comprising a processor and first and second data stores accessible to said processor, access by said processor to data held in said first store being quicker than access to said second store, said method comprising:

storing a plurality of media file metadata items in said second data store, together with relationship data comprising reference(s) to one or more related media file metadata items where one or more of the plurality of media file metadata items stored together with relationship data comprising the reference(s) is about a media file which encodes content that has been judged by an editor to be semantically-related to the content encoded by the media file(s) associated with the media file metadata item(s) to which the reference(s) refer; and

executing a process on said processor to:

i) fetch one or more media file metadata items from said second store together with said relationship data including said reference(s) to one or more related media file metadata items;

ii) responsive to receipt of said relationship data, use said reference(s) to fetch one or more of said related media file metadata items from said second memory to said first memory; and

iii) check, on subsequent requests for a media file metadata item, whether said requested media file metadata item is present in said first store and read said media file metadata item from said first store if found.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 in which said media file metadata items comprise an identifier of a media file and metadata representing what is portrayed by said identified media file.

10.   (Original) A method according to claim 8 in which said second store holds a database.